

LITTLE BOY BLUE.

BY EUGENE FIELD.

The little toy dog is covered with dust,
 But sturdy and staunch he stands ;
 And the little toy soldier is red with rust,
 And his musket moulds in his hands.
 Time was when the little toy dog was new,
 And the soldier was passing fair,
 And that was the time when our Little
 Boy Blue
 Kissed them and put them there.

"Now, don't you go till I come," he said,
 "And don't you make any noise!"
 So toddling off to his trundle-bed
 He dreamt of the pretty toys.
 And as he was dreaming an angel song
 Awakened our Little Boy Blue—
 Oh, the years are many, the years are long,
 But the little toy friends are true!

Aye, faithful to Little Boy Blue they
 stand,
 Each in the same old place,
 Awaiting the touch of a little hand,
 The smile of a little face.
 And they wonder, as waiting these long
 years through,
 In the dust of that little chair,
 What has become of our Little Boy Blue
 Since he kissed them and put them there.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE ACTS.

LESSON VI. [February 9.]

THE SIN OF LYING.

Acts 5. 1-11. Memorize verses 3-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour.—
 Eph. 4. 25.

THE LESSON STORY.

The little Church of the Lord Jesus Christ had grown from one hundred and twenty to more than eight thousand. Three thousand were baptized on the Day of Pentecost, and five thousand were converted after Peter had preached in the temple. They were happy in their new faith, and the Jews were afraid to harm them after the great signs and wonders that came at the crucifixion of Jesus.

The rich and the poor lived together in peace and joy, for they no longer loved their money and houses and lands more than they loved their risen Lord. A good man named Barnabas brought all he had after selling his land and gave it to the apostles. Then came Ananias, another rich man, but he talked with his wife Sapphira, and they agreed to keep a part of the price of their land, yet act as if they were giving all. But God gave Peter power to read the heart of Ananias, and he saw a lie there, for to act a lie is just as

bad as to speak it. Peter told Ananias that he had not lied to men, but to God, and while he was speaking Ananias fell down and died. So also did his wife, who came in afterward. Ananias was not worse than others who deceive, but the young Church needed to learn this lesson—to fear to be false.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who were Ananias and Sapphira? Members of the first Christian Church.

What did they love very much? Their riches.

What did they love a little? The Church of Christ.

Why did they give money to the Church? So as to be praised.

What did they pretend to do? To give all they had.

What did they really do? They kept a part.

What was this? Acting a lie.

What is as bad as a spoken lie? One which is acted.



DEATH OF SAPPHIRA.

Who showed Peter the lie? The Holy Spirit.

What did he tell Ananias? That he had lied to God.

What became of Ananias and his wife? God took them away.

What for? To show how dreadful deceit is.

LESSON VII. [Feb. 16.]

THE SECOND PERSECUTION.

Acts 5. 33-42. Memorize verses 40-42.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. 5. 10.

THE LESSON STORY.

The apostles worked many miracles in the name of Jesus, and this showed that their words were true, and that Jesus was truly the Son of God. But the priests grew more and more angry with them,

and at last had them put in prison. They did not understand that no man can lock doors against God! An angel came and brought Peter and John out, and he told them to go and preach in the temple "all the words of this life." Early in the morning they were teaching in the temple while the officers were looking for them in the prison. The judges sat waiting for the prisoners, when a man came and told them what the apostles were doing. After this they were brought before the judges again, but they were afraid to treat them harshly, on account of the people. When the high priest asked why they kept on preaching about Jesus, Peter answered that they must obey God rather than men, and told them again that the Jesus whom they had crucified was the Son of God and the Saviour of men. The judges were angry when they heard this, but Gamaliel, a wise and great man among them, told them to leave these men alone, for if their works were not from God they would do no harm, but if they were it would be a mistake to fight against them. So they were set free, and went on preaching the new Gospel.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where were the apostles one night? In prison.

Who put them there? The high priest.

Who brought them out? An angel of God.

What did he tell them to do? Go preach in the temple.

Where did the judges look for them? In prison.

Where were they found? In the temple.

Where were they taken then? Before the judges.

How had they disobeyed the high priest? By preaching.

Why? They wanted to obey God.

Who was Gamaliel? A wise and good judge.

What did he advise? To set the apostles free.

Is it of any use to fight against God? Never.

Up in the North seas lives the Walrus. It is a large animal, very awkward on land, as it has a huge body and short legs which flap about like fins. Every year, hunters with long spears kill a great many walruses. Fine ivory is made from the tusks, and the flesh is boiled for oil. In the water a walrus can move very fast, and will sometimes fight to save the life of her young one, which she holds tight with her fin-like foot. A walrus seems a strange animal to have for a pet, but some years ago one was captured and taken to a city and placed in a large tank of water. It soon became tame and was so fond of the woman who fed it that it would come and lay its head in her lap. She petted it and talked to it as if it were a little lap-dog.